

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference 303526.02 | FOR FURTHER ACTION | see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below. |
| International application No. PCT/US04/19915 | International filing date (day/month/year) 22 June 2004 (22.06.2004) | (Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 30 June 2003 (30.06.2003) |
| Applicant MICROSOFT CORPORATION | | |

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. **Basis of the Report**

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of:



the international application in the language in which it was filed.

a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b.

With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I

2.

3.

Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box No. II)

Unity of invention is lacking (See Box No. III)

4. With regard to the title,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1



as suggested by the applicant.



as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b.

none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/19915

Box IV TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

NEW ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a system and method to facilitate providing computer users with efficient access to electronic notifications while minimizing disruption in the context of ongoing tasks. A notification system (120) provides visual information heralds (160) that provide summarizations of notifications to users. An information controller (130) considers the importance or urgency of content and a user's current and/or recent activities in decisions about the rendering and positioning of the information herald (160) on a display screen or screens (150, 170) in order to facilitate user processing of the summarized notifications with minimal disruption to ongoing tasks.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/19915

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: G06F 15/16(2006.01)

USPC: 709/206

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 709/206, 207, 224

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONEElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| X, B | US 2004/0225718 A1 (HEINZEL et al) 11 November 2004 (11.11.2004), see Abstract, Figs. 1-10, and Paragraphs [0005-0030]. | 1-51 |
| X, P | US 2004/0061716 A1 (CHEUNG et al) 01 April 2004 (01.04.2004), see Abstract, Figs. 2-7, and Paragraphs [0004-0010]. | 1-51 |
| A, E | US 2005/0248437 A1 (HELLEBUST et al) 10 November 2005 (10.11.2005), see the whole reference. | 1-51. |
| A | US 6,459,913 B2 (CLOUTIER) 01 October 2002 (01.10.2002), see the whole reference. | 1-51. |
| A | US 2003/0028603 A1 (AKTAS et al) 06 February 2003 (06.02.2003), see the whole reference. | 1-51. |

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"T"

Later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"Z"

document member of the same patent family

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

26 May 2006 (26.05.2006)

28 JUN 2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Authorized officer

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US

7-01

Commissioner for Patents

Philip B. Tran

P.O. Box 1450

James R. Matlack

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Telephone No. 571-272-3991

Facsimile No. (571) 273-8300

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/19915

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:**EAST**

Search Terms: alerts or notifications or warnings, messages or messaging or email, visual, events, prioritization.